

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County

Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Tuesday, February 4, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

The People Are Grateful

Attorney General Robert Morgan has filed a request with the federal court for permission to enter the Franklin County school suit. This comes as welcomed news for both the people of the county and the long persecuted school officials.

Mr. Morgan seeks to intervene in the suit as Amicus Curiae - friend of the court. He wants to be heard on the question of his department's ruling on the charging of tuition for students whose parents live outside the state and, perhaps of more importance to Franklin County, he wants to be heard on the charges of contempt against the Franklin Board.

Mr. Morgan states that he wants to be allowed to "present the views of the State of North Carolina on these subjects." In all probability the court will allow him to do so.

The Franklin County school system totters today on the brink of complete disruption. Having already lost over 700 students to private schools or schools outside the system last fall, large numbers of parents have

more recently enrolled their children in private schools for the coming year. The uncertainty of the Franklin system's future is cause for great concern among both parents and teachers. Such is the injustice of the latest take-over move by the federal government. Many citizens, whose support is sorely needed are abandoning the public school system in its darkest hour.

It is, then, heartwarming indeed, that there is one high State official who has been willing not only to listen to Franklin's plight, but is equally willing to join in the struggle.

Robert Morgan has long been noted as a fighter. It is encouraging to know that he will be on Franklin's side. The issues are large and the lines are drawn. The future of school systems in untold numbers of counties are perhaps, even states, is at stake. The people of Franklin are grateful to Mr. Morgan today. The people of North Carolina will be grateful tomorrow.

Not The Only Hanky-Panky

It now comes to light that the twelfth-hour slap at the Franklin County Board of Education by the outgoing Johnson administration Attorney General is not the only bit of last minute hanky-panky by the retiring Democratic regime.

While loudly shouting there could be but one President at a time in the United States, Mr. Johnson was busily trying to further his influence even after the Nixon administration had taken over.

President Nixon has just withdrawn 489 of Mr. Johnson's last minute appointments. One observer termed this "stuffing every possible slot in government with a faithful party favorite" by Mr. Johnson and a "co-operative" Congress.

Mr. Nixon has also ordered certain coveted air routes, awarded by Mr. Johnson to certain airlines, held up.

But the clincher, if one is needed to brand Lyndon Johnson for what he is, comes with the disclosure of the downright disgraceful actions apparently taken by his Secretary of Transportation Alan S. Boyd.

In the heart-warming last minutes of the Johnson era, Secretary Boyd was diligently seeking the job as President of the Illinois Central Railroad. After all, ever high government officials have to live when their party is

out of power. Strange, indeed, however, is the report of the approval by Mr. Boyd and Mr. Johnson of a little grant of \$25.2 million to Illinois Central, a gift taken, of course, from the American taxpayer. At present the new Transportation Secretary is holding up this little batch of goodies the Johnson administration sought to hand out. Needless to report, Mr. Boyd is already President of Illinois Central Railroad. What happens to his position should the Nixon administration decline to grant this little gift is, at this point, unknown.

Meanwhile, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark is having some unkind things to say about the new administration. According to one report, he has "thundered that Mr. Nixon's actions raises a question of 'whether Mr. Nixon keeps his word'."

Even though things may not be going to suit Mr. Clark right now, there are many who certainly hope Mr. Nixon keeps his word on the many things he said during his campaign. One thing is certain, the Johnson administration caught him napping on the surlax, but the new President was wide awake to catch, at least, some of the hanky-panky. And most of us are always grateful for even the smallest favors.

I AM THE NATION

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I WAS BORN on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the nation.

I am 200 million living souls—and the ghost of millions who have lived and died for me.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Abe Lincoln.

I remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor. When freedom called, I answered and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the rock of Corregidor, on the bleak slopes of Korea and in the steaming jungle of Vietnam.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the wheat lands of Kansas and the granite hills of Vermont. I am the coal-

fields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the West, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon.

I am Independence Hall, the Monitor and the Merrimac.

I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific . . . my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii . . . 3 million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than 3 million farms. I am forest, field, mountain and desert. I am quiet villages—and cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with his breadloaf under his arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 130,000 schools and colleges, and 326,000 churches where my people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a Congressman.

I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Tom Edison, Albert Einstein and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greely, Will Rogers and the Wright brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster and Jonas Salk.

I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman and Thomas Paine.

Yes, I am the nation, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in freedom and, God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of hope to the world.

This is my wish, my goal, my prayer in this year of 1969— one hundred and ninety-three years after I was born.

The Franklin Times
ESTABLISHED 1876 - Published Tuesday & Thursday by The Franklin Times, Inc.
Barnes Bld. One 079-2251 Louisville, K.C.
CLOYD FULLER, Managing Editor ELIZABETH JENNINGS, Business Manager
Advertising Rates Upon Request NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION MEMBER
Subscription Rates: In North Carolina, One Year \$4.00 (6 Months \$2.00), Three Months \$1.25; Out of State, One Year \$5.00 (6 Months \$2.50), Three Months \$1.50
Printed on recycled paper with 100% recycled ink at the Post Office in Louisville, K.C. 40216



GARDNER
THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
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Publication 45-1985

'Whew! And I thought it was chilly in Alaska!'

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

A Judge's Words: If The Boy Had Just Heard Earlier

By Tom Coffey
In The Savannah (Georgia) Morning News.

"Because you have no previous conviction, I am permitted to give you parole. . . But if you never see the inside of a penitentiary, you will not have escaped the penalties of your crime."

These words were said by a judge in Iowa to a convicted 16-year-old felon and were reprinted, along with the judge's other remarks, in the St. Francis (Kan.) Herald and the Kentucky Bar Journal. A reprint of the article came across my desk the other day, and I found the judge's words so penetrating that I decided to use some of them, for whatever impression they might make on any young man.

The judge went on to explain to the young parolee the tragic effect of a felony conviction. Listen:

"The record of your conviction will be here as long as the courthouse stands. No amount of good conduct in the future can erase it. . . If you are ever called to witness in any court some lawyer will point his finger at you and ask: 'Have you ever been convicted of a felony?' . . . And the question will be asked for the purpose of casting doubt on your testimony. Convicted felons are not believed as readily as other persons. 'It may be that someday. . . you will apply for a passport. You will not get it. . . No country will allow you to become a resident. 'Your world is, oh, so much smaller than it was. 'Some day you may seek a position in the civil service. . . You will find the question: Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Your answer will bar you from examination. 'You may want to take a position of trust, where a surety bond is required. On the application will appear this question: Have you ever been convicted of a felony? 'In a few years you will be 21 and others your age will have the right to vote, but you will not. . . You will be a citizen of your

state and county, but you will have no voice in public affairs.

"Your country is calling men to the colors. . . But the Army will never accept you, nor will the Navy. . . You may serve your country in a labor battalion perhaps, but never behind guns. Yours may be the drudgery of war, but never the honor that comes to a soldier.

"I am granting you a parole. A parole is in no sense a pardon. You will report to the men who have accepted your parole as often as they may ask. Your convenience is not a matter of importance. You will answer fully and truthfully any question they may ask. Should they suggest that you refrain from going to certain places or with certain companions, you will follow their suggestions and without grumbling.

"You will also obey your parents. . . You will perform such tasks as are assigned to you. Your parole is a fragile thing.

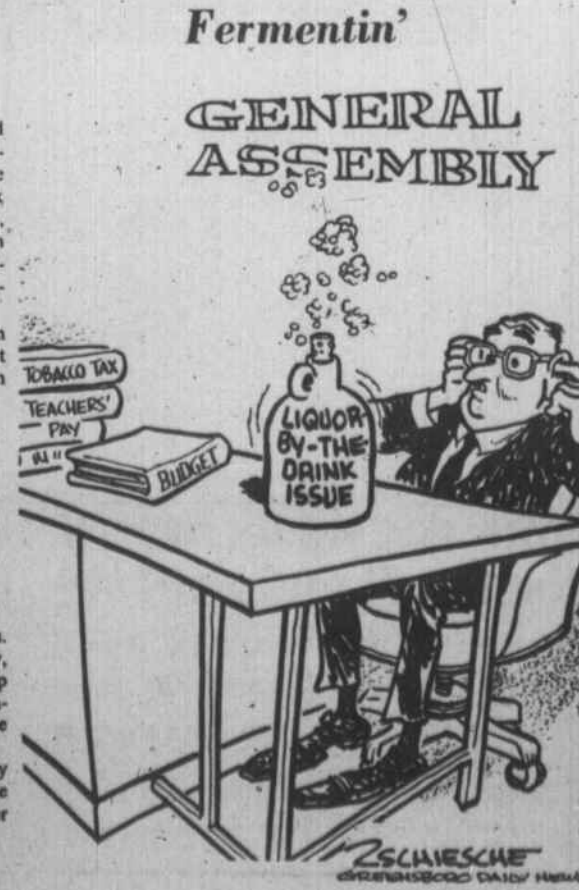
"Should the slightest complaint of your conduct reach this court, your parole will be revoked immediately. . . You will not be brought back here for questioning or explanations. You will be picked up and taken to prison without notice to you and without delay."

Those were the judge's words, said to his friend's young son who stood before him for sentencing.

The judge remains anonymous. So does the young prisoner. But we can imagine the heartache that the judge must have felt, passing judgment on a family friend. We can imagine the family's heartache. Even the young boy's.

We can imagine, too, that if the young boy had heard or read words like this before he committed his crime, he might have stopped to reconsider.

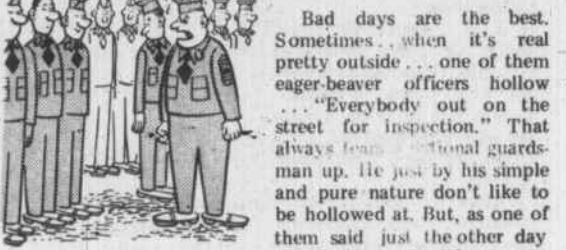
Perhaps someone else will stop to reconsider. That's why I have passed the words along.



Sometimes I wish I wuz a National guardsman. They have a whole heap of fun. They ain't got to worry about finding something to do-like everyday folks-every Sunday. That's taken care of for them.

They all gather at the armory lounge and sit around and eat and tell funny stories and draw their pay. Them that's married, fares the best. They got a excuse for leaving home.

What better reason can a man have for not taking his wife to her mama's on Sunday afternoon than to proudly proclaim. . . "My country needs me. I must go and defend Bull Runn Alley."



to take the bad with the good." He's in the philosophy section.

But on bad days, the officers are pretty considerate. They don't believe in getting wet and since they can't hardly order the men out without going out themselves. . . bad days are the best. That's when lunch is brought in to the men and served hot by a carefully selected group of non-military waitresses.

Usually they get fried chicken or steak with all the trimmings. And after they eat and the dirty old dishes are hauled away. . . dirty dishes have always disturbed soldiers, somehow. . . they all take a little nap. The officers stand watch so's nobody will disturb their men while they're resting. Sometimes. . . when they are awake, they get to see the latest Army films. Ain't that nice?

And the benefits they get. Just take their green fatigue uniforms if you will. They are undoubtedly made of the most miracle fabric known to man. They don't ever wrinkle. And they keep them warm in the winter time and cool in the summertime. We are guessing here. . . but. . . it makes good sense. . . since they wear the same ones all year long.

We've seen them when it was a hundred degrees in them long-sleeved green fatigues and we've seen them when it was zero degrees in them same long-sleeved green fatigues. They must be isolated or something.

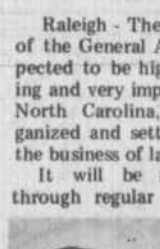
And thank goodness they don't have to have shined shoes no longer. That has always bugged real fighting men. How can you keep your shoes polished when you're scuffling around trying to get some sleep?

In closing. . . we must say. . . that this here report is second-hand. Since we ain't never been a national guardsman. . . we can't with any certainty say that all this is the facts. They wuz told to us and we believed it all until the fellow started to leave and we asked him what he did for a living.

We got suspicious when he yelled back. . . "I'm a national guard recruiter."

Report From Raleigh

By Rep. John T. Church



Rep. Church
Vance and Warren counties, on any and all matters which should be given legislative attention. You may write me in care of the State Legislative Building, Raleigh, N. C.

Most of the major legislative committee assignments have now been made. I will be privileged to serve on the Joint Appropriations Committee, and as a member of its personnel and long-range planning subcommittee. I have been appointed vice chairman of the committee on State Government, and will serve on the committees on Banking, State Personnel, and Conservation and Development. I also will serve on the committee on University Trustees and have been appointed Vice Chairman of committee on Higher Education. All seven of these are important committees. I feel sure they will be called on to make some very vital deci-

isions during the coming months.

Thus far I have sponsored or co-sponsored four statewide-bills. One would establish a recommended system of Youth Councils. A second would increase head-of-household personal income tax exemptions from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to resolve an inequity in our tax laws. I co-signed a bill for free fishing licenses for anyone over 65 years of age, and that is self-explanatory. It is in the Wildlife Committee. I also co-signed a bill which would require a "caution" label on each bottle of whisky sold in North Carolina similar to the label now required by federal law on each package of cigarettes.

I definitely will oppose any effort to place additional taxes on tobacco. My position on this is well known. I feel strongly that substantially more support must be given the public schools and I will support measures to increase average teacher salaries to the national level, provide teaching aides and auxiliary help.

Of primary interest will be the securing of a technical institute for Vance County, to serve the Vance-Warren-Franklin area. A formal request for this institute has been presented to and approved by the State Board of Education, officials of the Department of Community Colleges, and all necessary procedures have been completed with. It does not require a special act of the legislature, but it is important that the necessary funds are included in the 1969-71 Appropriations Act.